(a) whether fore-warning of earthquakes in the country can be made through satellite imaging;

(b) whether this technique has been effective in fore-warning earthquakes in US and Japan;

(c) if so, whether Government have asked the environment scientists of the country to issue instructions for taking precautionary measures much in advance, in tremor-prone areas;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, what decision Government have taken so far in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT): (a) to (e) R&D efforts are continuing the world over to find methods of forecasting earthquake occurrence. Satellite imaging is one among many different methods that scientist are working on. However, at present no scientific technique, including satellite imaging is available anywhere in the world, to forecast the occurrence of earthquakes with a reasonable degree of accuracy in terms of space, time and magnitude. The Department of Science and Technology is supporting wide-ranging research in several institutions to better understand the earthquake phenomena and enable higher levels of preparedness.

Science and technology policy to boost production process

2878. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state the salient features of new Science and Technology policy to boost agricultural and industrial production processes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT): At present no new Science and Technology policy to boost agricultural and industrial production process has been formulated.